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In the Claims

Claims 1-40 [Canceled].

1   41.   [Previously Presented] An electronic mail communication method
2 comprising:
3   providing an electronic mail communication using a sender;
4   ascertaining   a   value   granting   access   to   the   electronic   mail
5 communication;
6   attaching the value to the electronic mail communication using the
7 sender;
8   after the attaching, outputting the electronic mail communication having
9 the attached value for communication to a recipient;
10   after the outputting, analyzing the attached value; and
11   responsive to the analysis, accessing contents of the electronic mail
12 communication using the recipient.

1   42.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 41 further comprising:
2   increasing the attached value responsive to the analyzing; and
3   granting access to the contents of the electronic mail communication
4 responsive to the increasing.

1   43.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 42 wherein the
2 wherein the increasing comprises increasing without interaction of the sender
3 after the outputting.

1   44.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 42 wherein the
2 increasing comprises increasing to another value authorized by the sender before
3 the outputting.

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1   45.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41 wherein the

2   analyzing comprises:

3   comparing the attached value with respect to a desired value of the

4   recipient; and

5   accepting the electronic mail communication responsive to the attached

6   value being one of equal to and exceeding the desired value, and wherein the

7   accessing is responsive to the accepting.

1   46.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41 wherein the

2   ascertaining comprises ascertaining a range of different values, the attaching

3   comprises attaching one of the values, and the analyzing comprises:

4   comparing the attached value with respect to a desired value of the

5   recipient;

6   determining that the attached value is less than the desired value;

7   responsive to the determining, increasing the attached value to be one of

8   equal to and exceeding the desired value within the range of different values;

9   and

10   accepting the electronic mail communication responsive to the attached

11   value being one of equal to and exceeding the desired value, and wherein the

12   accessing is responsive to the accepting.

1   47.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41 wherein the

2   attaching the value comprises attaching an electronic check including the value,

3   and the analyzing comprises analyzing the electronic check in a clearinghouse

4   process to verify that sufficient funds are available corresponding to the

5   attached value, and further comprising accepting the electronic mail

6   communication responsive to the verification and wherein the accessing is

7   responsive to the accepting.

1   48.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 47 wherein the

2   analyzing comprises communicating the electronic check to a clearinghouse

3   process entity configured to perform the verification.

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1   49.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41 wherein the
2   attaching the value comprises attaching an electronic check, and further
3   comprising:
4   communicating the electronic check to a clearinghouse process entity
5   after the outputting, and wherein the analyzing comprises analyzing the
6   electronic check using the clearinghouse process entity;
7   communicating a verification using the clearinghouse process entity after
8   the analyzing; and
9   accepting the electronic mail communication responsive to the
10   communicated verification, and wherein the accessing is responsive to the
11   accepting.

1   50.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41 wherein the
2   attaching the value comprises attaching an electronic check including the value,
3   and the analyzing comprises analyzing the electronic check in a clearinghouse
4   process configured to process checks.

1   51.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41 wherein the
2   attaching the value comprises attaching an electronic check including the value,
3   and the analyzing comprises analyzing the electronic check in a clearinghouse
4   process configured to process checks including verifying a digital signature of
5   the sender and a digital signature of the recipient.

1   52.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41 wherein the
2   electronic check is configured to cause the transfer of currency corresponding to
3   the attached value from the sender to the recipient responsive to the accessing.

1   53.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41 wherein the
2   attaching comprises attaching an electronic check which identifies a bearer, and
3   the analyzing comprises comparing identities of the bearer and the recipient, and
4   the accessing comprises accessing responsive to the recipient countersigning
5   the check as the bearer.

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1   54.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41 wherein the
2 attaching the value comprises attaching an electronic check including the value,
3 and the analyzing comprises verifying an identity of a bank from which the
4 attached value of the electronic check will be drawn.

1   55.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 41 further comprising:
2   outputting   another   electronic   mail   communication   having   another
3 attached value for communication to the recipient;
4   comparing the another attached value with respect to a desired value of
5 the recipient; and
6   responsive to the another attached value being less than the desired
7 value, rejecting the another electronic mail communication wherein the contents
8 of the another electronic mail communication are not accessed by the recipient.

1   56.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 55 wherein the
2 rejecting comprises returning the electronic mail communication to the sender.

1   57.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 41 further comprising:
2   outputting another electronic mail communication not having an attached
3 value; and
4   analyzing the another electronic mail communication comprises identifying
5 the absence of the attached value; and
6   responsive to the absence of the attached value, rejecting the another
7 electronic mail communication wherein the contents of the another electronic
8 mail communication are not accessed by the recipient.

1   58.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41 wherein the
2 providing the electronic mail communication comprises providing an initial
3 electronic mail communication, and further comprising:
4   providing another electronic mail communication having an attached
5 value; and
6   sorting the initial electronic mail communication and the another
7 electronic mail communication within an inbox of the recipient according to the

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8   respective attached values of the initial and another electronic mail

9   communications.

1   59.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 41   wherein the

2   analyzing comprises analyzing using a processor of an Internet Service Provider

3   configured to communicate electronic mail communications to the recipient.

1   60.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 59 communicating the

2   electronic mail communication from the Internet Service Provider to the recipient

3   responsive to the analysis.